

**Noelle E. Cockett, Ph.D.**

Academia

Dr. Cockett has been studying genes in order to solve problems affecting food animals for at least two decades now, and was named an AAAS Fellow in recognition of her past achievements and future promise in that field. She has characterized the callipyge gene of sheep, which is responsible for muscle hypertrophy, and identified the genetic marker for Spider Lamb Syndrome, an important disease of sheep, providing both a valuable tool for eliminating this defect in the population and contributing to the study of bone disorders in humans. With help from the State's Centers of Excellence Program, in 1997 she cofounded a company that markets a genetic test now used by countries around the world. Today, Noelle is making a significant impact as Dean of the College of Agriculture at USU. As Chair of a special committee, she directed an extensive study of the role of genomics research as applied to agriculture within the State of Utah, identifying and promoting the University's strengths and refocusing the Biotechnology center to become the Center for Integrated Biosystems, with emphasis on the use of genomics research for the benefit of Agriculture. Noelle also established a Research Apprentice program at USU that recruits women and minorities into agricultural research.

\*Dr. Cockett was unable to attend the ceremony, she was out of the country at the time.